(d) if so, the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended in June 1993, provides for mining of coal by any Indian company for some specified end-uses, implying captive consumption of coal. However, presently Ministry of Coal is considering a proposal to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to enable the Government to allot coal blocks for the said specified end-uses on competitive bidding basis. Bill to this effect will be drafted only after the Central Government decides on the proposal.

(c) A meeting was held with some stakeholders on 28.6.2004 in which *inter alia* introduction of com petitive bidding as basis for allocation of captive coal blocks was discussed.

(d) Some stakeholders were in favour of it and some opposed its introduction.

Rehabilitation of excavated mines

703. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for backfilling and full rehabilitation of excavated mines; and

(b) the reasons for very slow and tardy progress in such rehabilitation and the remedial measures proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Adequate steps as stipulated in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Project Report (PR) of each mine approved by competent authority is taken for backfilling of excavated mine void and rehabilitation of land in MCL.

The steps involved are:

1. Back filling of the de-coaled area.
2. Leveling/terracing of the back filled area.
3. Spreading of top soil over the back filled area.
4. Biological reclamation/plantation over the back filled area.

A time lag is required between physical and biological reclamation for stabilization of back filled dump. Plantation is being done through Government agency and about 2500 plants per hectare are being planted.

(b) The progress of reclamation and ehabilitation of mined out land in MCL is satisfactory. The status of reclamation and rehabilitation of excavated areas of MCL as on 01.11.2004 is given below:—

(Ha.) Total area of land excavated & required to be reclaimed	(Ha.) Area of land physically or technically reclaimed	(Ha.) , Area of plantation done on reclaimed land
2338	1645	1116

Total 37 lakhs plantation has been done in MCL since its inception.

All the excavated area cannot be backfilled because of technical reasons like minimum area required for movement of men and machinery in the active areas.

Coal production by SECL

†704. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal mined from each of the various collieries of SECL during the last three years and the grade of each coal respectively;

(b) the details of the collieries of SECL and respective quantity of coal allotted to various companies during the last three years;

(c) whether any complaints regarding irregularity in the allotment have been received; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Colliery-wise production of coal of SECL during the last three years alongwith grade of coal is given in the enclosed as Statement-I *(See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.